

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims (as attached to the IPRP) as follows:

I claim:

1. (Original) A method of protecting a body or hull and any occupant of a land vehicle movable along a substrate on ground engaging elements against the effects of a landmine explosion, including conducting shock waves generated by the landmine explosion laterally outwardly by means of a shock wave guide member of a material having a relatively high acoustic speed and located proximate a ground engaging element of the vehicle.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1 in which the material of each shock wave guide member is selected from materials including glass, a suitable ceramic such as an alumina, or the like, which have an acoustic speed of higher than about 6000 m/sec.

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~ in which the vehicle is a track vehicle, the ground engaging elements being in the form of tracks, the guide members being located in at least one of a well of a bogey wheel and immediately above a bottom run of a track intermediate bogey wheels.

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~ in which the vehicle is a wheeled vehicle, the ground engaging elements being in the form of wheels, the guide member being located in a well of the wheel.

5. (Original) A land vehicle movable along a substrate on ground engaging elements, which land vehicle is adapted or converted to protect its body or hull and any occupant against the effects of a landmine explosion, the land vehicle comprising a plurality of shock wave guide members proximate ground engaging elements of the land vehicle,

characterized in that the shock wave guide members are of a material having a relatively high acoustic speed higher than the acoustic speed of metal used in components of the land vehicle which components have an acoustic speed generally of about 5000 m/sec, the shock wave guide members being oriented to conduct shock waves laterally outwardly away from the body or hull.

6. (Original) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 5, in which is in the material of each shock wave guide member is selected from materials, including glass, a suitable ceramic material such as an alumina, which materials have an acoustic speed of higher than about 6000 m/sec.

7. (Currently amended) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 5 ~~or Claim 6~~ which is in the form of a track vehicle, the ground engaging elements being in the form of tracks, in which the guide members are positioned in wells of bogey wheels, as well as immediately above a bottom run of each track intermediate bogey wheels.

8. (Original) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 7 in which the guide members proximate tracks intermediate bogey wheels have layers of low friction material on their surfaces interfacing with the tracks.

9. (Currently amended) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 5 ~~or Claim 6~~ which is in the form of a wheeled vehicle, the ground engaging elements being in the form of wheels, in which the guide members are positioned annularly in wells of the wheels.

10. (Currently amended) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 5 ~~or Claim 6~~ which is in the form of a wheeled vehicle, the ground engaging elements being in the form of wheels, each wheel having a hollow tyre around a wheel rim, in which the guide members are positioned annularly in the hollows of the tyres.

11. (Currently amended) A land vehicle as claimed in ~~any one of Claim 5 or Claim 10 inclusive~~ in which the guide members are of composite construction, each guide member comprising a plurality of oriented or directed laminates of a material having an acoustic speed of at least about 6000 m/sec.

12. (Original) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 11 in which the laminates are sandwiched in-between layers of material having a relatively low acoustic speed, lower than about 1000 m/sec.

13. (Currently amended) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 11 ~~or Claim 12~~ in which the laminates are oriented to extend obliquely laterally outwardly in use.

14. (Currently amended) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 11 ~~or Claim 12~~ ~~or Claim 13~~ in which said guide members have surfaces which are profiled snugly to be received with little clearance, or even slight touching, on surfaces of the ground engaging elements.

15. (Original) A ground engaging element for a land vehicle in combination with a shock wave guide member of a material having an acoustic speed of higher than about 6000 m/sec, the guide member being locatable proximate a ground engaging surface of the ground engaging element.

16. (Original) A combination as claimed in Claim 15, in which the ground engaging element is a track and bogey wheel arrangement for a track vehicle, the guide member being adapted for location in one of a well of a bogey wheel, and immediately above a lower run of the track intermediate bogey wheels.

17. (Original) A combination as claimed in Claim 15, in which the ground engaging element is a wheel for a wheeled vehicle, the guide member being adapted for location within a well of the wheel.

18. (Original) A combination as claimed in Claim 15, in which the ground engaging element is a wheel, having a hollow tyre, for a wheeled vehicle, the guide member being adapted for location within the hollow of the tyre.

19. (Cancelled) A method as claimed in Claim 1, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

20. (Cancelled) A land vehicle as claimed in Claim 5, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

21. (Cancelled) A ground engaging element in combination with a shock wave guide member as claimed in Claim 15, substantially as herein described and illustrated.